

Baseball, Basketball, Boxing, Wrestling, and Other Sporting Gossip of Interest

HALPIN MAKES REPLY
TO THOSE WHO ROAST
METHODS AT ATHENSSays Complainants Were Bad Actors and Made
Him Ashamed of His Position—Demands Specific Charges—Criticisms Continue.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—Matthew P. Halpin, manager of the American team which will compete in the English Olympic, yesterday made a verbal and a written reply to the charges of several athletes and athletic men regarding his conduct as manager of the Olympic team that competed at Athens last summer. Halpin said that he had been maliciously attacked by men who had on the trip to Athens "made him ashamed that he was manager of an American team."

"I would rather resign than tell all that happened on that trip to Athens, and the true state of affairs that existed all the time we were gone," said Mr. Halpin. "I am not a squealer, and I would not say a word now if I did not feel common justice to myself demands it. For the good of the sport it would be best that I keep quiet."

"The story published regarding me pushing in the front of a Greek official at Athens is a falsehood pure and simple. The story says the Greek official was serving wine. They had waiters for that purpose and not official. When we arrived at Naples the athletes wanted to drink water. I called a half on that at once, stating that we had distilled water with us. There was a kick at this. I had to be strict with the athletes."

"Any trainer would have done the same for the simple reason the team went to Athens to win honors and not to have a good time. As manager of the team I showed my authority as such, but always acted in a gentlemanly way. Reports to the contrary are untrue."

Ashamed of Team.

"The actions in the dining room at times were such that I was ashamed that I was manager of an American team."

"In one of the evening papers last January, when I was running on the independent ticket for captain of the New York Athletic Club, an article appeared which was written by the man whose animus toward me is well known. In part it said:

"Matthew P. Halpin, independent, was opposing E. T. Hubbard, the regular candidate. Halpin resolved his support chiefly on his record as a manager of various Mercury Foot teams and handler of the American team at Athens last summer."

"If I can't for one moment understand the trouble unless it is politics," Halpin's written statement follows:

"Although it has been my most earnest desire not to answer the venomous attacks made upon me by certain members of the late American Olympic team which went to Athens in 1906, the unfairness of my enemies and requests of friends force me to defend myself, but not to the end I intended taking, because those in authority ask me not to thrust the matter out in the papers, but wait until the specific charges are made, after which adjudication will be made by the committee. One of my chief reasons for not having taken this action heretofore was that I had no desire to cast discredit upon any other team which might journey abroad on a similar competitive mission."

"If any one has a protest or complaint to make with respect to my management of the team which went to Athens, I think he should properly address to the Olympic committee."

"In all likelihood the many rabid statements made concerning my treatment of certain men on that trip emanate from the Irish-American Athletic Club, which has not had a kindly feeling for me since I was a factor in the protesting of Martin J. Sheridan, of that club, for professionalism several years ago. I am in the habit of thinking that the bitterness then engendered has never died out."

"I am free to confess that when this matter is thrust out before the Olympic committee not alone will I be able to make good for my seeming harsh treatment of these certain men, but will also be prepared to prove many things to their detriment."

"The New York World, which is leading the attack upon my statement, is commenting upon his statement:

Specific Answers Demanded.

"Whoever those in authority may be, and Halpin does not specify them, they have effectually tied his hands, and he is now in the position of a man bound hand and foot and placed in the way of the offended athletes so that each one that passes him may without fear give him a kick."

"What the men who are interested want to know is, why is not Halpin a free agent? Who controls this man so that he may not answer the attacks made upon him by W. D. Eaton, Harvey Cohn, Billy Frank, Dan Sullivan, B. L. Leavitt, P. J. Sullivan, and others of the Olympic team that went to Greece?"

"Specific charges have been made by these men and published in this newspaper. Halpin has had ample opportunity to tell his side, but he refuses. However, he sticks to the job of manager. The criticisms seem to come from no other motive than the knowledge that Halpin is not qualified to manage the team. They are not made in the interest of any other team so far as the World has been able to ascertain. Following are some specifications from men who were on the team that went to Greece:

Cohn's Charge. Harvey Cohn says: "Halpin caused the American team to lose some points. Had he been a proper manager, I think Billy Frank would have finished second, if not first, instead of third in the Marathon race. Before the race Halpin was asked to provide Frank with a bag in which he could carry supplies which he might need while on

the run. A small bag was selected—one which could be strapped around his neck and carried without impeding his speed. Halpin refused to buy this, and Frank was compelled to carry his supplies in a handkerchief strapped over his shoulder."

"Before a quarter of the journey was completed the bottles containing water and stimulants jostled against each other in the handkerchief and were broken. For the remainder of that grueling Frank was compelled to continue without supplies he needed."

"When he needed water he was compelled to stop and beg the Greek soldiers stationed along the route for a drink. Sometimes he got it and more times he was refused. All these stops cost him many minutes, and in my opinion prevented him from making a better showing. Halpin was also asked to have some of the boys stationed at various points along the route. Halpin refused."

Other Charges.

Billy Frank says: "I was compelled to lose a lot of time during the race because I had no supplies. Had Halpin purchased a bag for me I would not have been compelled to stop and might have finished in a better position."

Robert G. Leavitt, of Boston, says Halpin quartered the athletes in a building in Athens that was so damp that many of the athletes contracted sore throats."

W. D. Eaton, of Boston, says, the men were not properly housed and were badly fed. The house in which they were quartered was extremely damp and the food unwholesome."

D. A. Sullivan, of Annapolis, says: "Had it not been for Halpin's interference I might have won my wrestling bout. He discouraged me and prevented me from training for the bout."

Lawson Robertson says Manager Halpin discouraged the entire team from the minute they sailed from New York until the athletes returned."

A. A. U. GETS OUT
OF SKATING GAME

Major John J. Dixon, secretary of the Amateur Athletic Union, yesterday announced that the articles of alliance between the union and the International Skating Union had been adopted by mail vote of the board of governors, and the articles were duly signed by the officers of both associations yesterday.

All matters pertaining to skating are now in the hands of the International Skating Union, which is allied with the Amateur Skating Association of Canada, the Western Skating Association of Canada, the Eastern Skating Association of the United States, and the Western Skating Association of the United States. The Amateur Athletic Union will have control of all games of basketball, whether on skates or not.

LITTLE MEN READY
FOR HOLIDAY BOUT

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 28.—Everything is going with a swing at the training camps of the two little champions, Abe Attell and Owen Moran, and the men who are preparing the principal fight on New Year Day, are thoroughly satisfied with results.

In Attell's case there is an official assurance that he is safely within the weight limit, while from San Rafael comes a report that the little Englishman can make 125 pounds at twenty-four hours' notice.

Attell is still a strong favorite with the betting contingent, the pressure of Attell money causing the odds against the English lad to lengthen to 10 to 7 today. It is said that several commissions have been sent here from Los Angeles.

NATIONAL BARS
BURNS-PALMER
FIGHT SCHEME

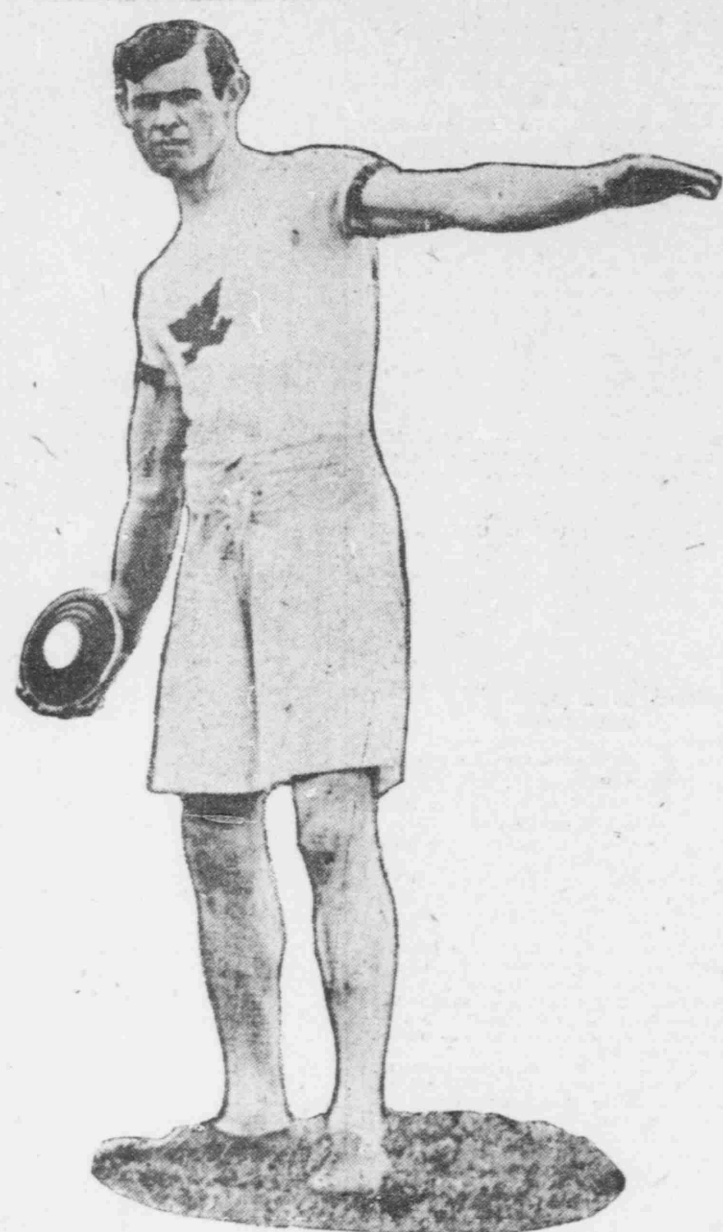
NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—Tommy Burns will not meet Jack Palmer at the National Club in London.

The English gentleman in the big club will not stand for Palmer in any form at all, and as for Burns, they will not break their necks offering him purses. His conduct in the Moir fight has soured them on him, and the welcome is not as plain as it was.

GUS WADE PLANNING
BILLIARD MATCHES

Gus Wade, of the Palace billiard parlors, will pull off a number of matches after the holidays. Gus is in excellent form and will probably enter some of the matches himself.

In Limelight Again



MARTIN SHERIDAN,
World's Champion Athlete, Who is Fighting M. P. Halpin as Manager of the
American Olympic Team of 1908.

BASKETBALL GAMES
ON CARD TONIGHT
OLD BOXING IDEA
TO FRONT AGAIN

Basketball fans should have a run for their money at the Y. M. C. A. tonight, when that team meets the Belvedere, for the past two years champions of Maryland.

Before the big game there will be one between the Y. M. C. A. Reserves and the Fort Myer quint.

The Y. M. C. A. athletes are planning a lively session for New Year Day. From 3 to 4 p. m. there will be various athletic events in the gymnasium, and from 4 to 5 p. m. the swimming pool will be the scene of diving and racing competitions.

The basketball line-ups for tonight are:

Y. M. C. A. Positions. Belvedere.
St. Louis. C. W. Schurholz.
Jones. R. C. Smith.
Haight. L. B. Smith.
Williams. L. B. Schurholz.
Fowler. R. B. Schurholz.

Y. M. C. A. Positions. Fort Myer.
Allen. L. C. Hunt.
Cole. R. C. Hunt.
Kingsbury. C. Worrell.
Valk. L. B. Ballon.
Hoppe. R. B. Parker.

MANY PICK BENNETT
AS BEST OARSMAN

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—Many oarsmen throughout the United States have picked out Harry S. Bennett as the one best fitted to carry the country's colors in the single sculls event at the Olympic rowing championship, to be decided in England next season.

Bennett, who comes from Springfield, Mass., is the amateur champion sculler of the United States. He is in prime condition now, and ready to start training for the moment his entry is accepted.

That the Englishmen fear this self-made sculler is borne out by the fact that they have resurrected H. T. Blackstaffe, the veteran runner-up for Ned Ten Eyck, and winner of the diamond sculls in 1906.

Bennett has a decided advantage over the veteran in age, but at the same time he will be badly handicapped, as Blackstaffe has had much experience on the Henley course.

NO GRATITUDE.

As Miss Lamson arrayed herself for the meeting of the Harvest Gleaners, she expressed her mind freely and fully to her Aunt Eunice. "If they try to make me secretary again, I shall up and tell them just what I think of them," she said, with great decision.

"Yes, I shall," insisted Miss Lamson. "Here I've worked for them for ten solid years, and they've never even suggested getting anybody else to take the burden from my shoulders. It's—It's disgraceful!"

On Miss Lamson's return, Aunt Eunice cast one glance at her niece, and then put in her word. "Poor child, they've imposed on you again!" she said, in her soothing voice.

"Imposed on me?" cried Miss Lamson, a dull flush rising to her cheeks. "I should think they had. I declined the nomination, and they elected that little Robins woman right over my head! But there's no such thing as gratitude nowadays."

WILY LITTLE RAVEN
OUTGENERATED SHERIDAN

In 1906 Gen. Phil Sheridan was at Fort Dodge fitting out for a campaign against the Indians. One of the New Ravens, chief of the Arapahoes, came into camp driving an ambulance with a long pole lashed to it and a wagon sheet flying from this "mast" as a flag of truce. Little Raven came, so he said, to have a peace talk with General Sheridan. As a result of the long talk Little Raven boldly outgeneraled Sheridan. He said all the time he wanted was two sleepings to bring in the whole Arapahoe tribe. Sheridan told him to take a week and see that they came. Little Raven protested that he only wanted two sleepings, and left next morning loaded with bacon, beans, flour, sugar, and coffee. Two sleepings passed and no Little Raven nor other Arapahoe put in an appearance. What Little Raven wanted was time to get the women and children out of danger and he got what he wanted.

NEW FLAG.

Rearrangement of the entire starry portion of the American flag will be necessary to provide the new star, which will be added July 4 next, as a result of the admission of Oklahoma as a State.

The State emblem—forty-six in number—are at present arranged in six alternate rows of eight and seven. When the new star is added the make-up of the blue "union" will be as follows:

Top row—Eight stars.
Second row—Seven.
Third row—Eight.
Fourth row—Eight.
Fifth row—Seven.
Sixth row—Eight.

Plans and specifications for the new flag have been approved by the army and navy authorities and their manufacture will begin early in December.

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SUMMER BASEBALL
WILL BE HARD HIT

Intercollegiate A. A. Propose
Radical Reforms
Today.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—The Intercollegiate Athletic Association of the United States will enact drastic reforms at its meeting at the Murray Hill Hotel this afternoon.

It will take up the matter of summer baseball and pass regulations which it expects will cure the crying evil. It will suggest means to correct abuses in basketball, and it will name the members of the football rules committee to represent it in recasting the playing rules. On this committee there will be one new face, displacing a well-known legislator.

These things were decided upon yesterday afternoon at a session of the executive committee of the association. It met at the Murray Hill Hotel and was in session for five hours. It was attended by President Palmer E. Pierce, West Point; Harry L. Williams, University of Minnesota; Louis A. Bevier, Rutgers; Prof. W. L. Dudley, Vanderbilt University; Prof. C. W. Hetherington, University of Missouri; Prof. C. E. St. John, Oberlin College, and Prof. Henry D. Wild, Williams.

Suppress Summer Ball.

The committee which was appointed to try to secure the entrance of the big colleges into the association will also make its report. This report will recite the method to be followed in the selection of future football rules committees to meet the views of the big colleges. It will also tell of the addition of Pennsylvania and Chicago to the ranks of the colleges enrolled; it will relate the refusal of Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Cornell and Annapolis to join.

The summer baseball problem will be taken up and recommendations made. The investigation conducted by Prof. Hetherington has been sweeping and embodies reports of conditions from sixty-one different localities. All the evils are enumerated and classified and the method of reaching them discussed. It is intended first to declare that the principle of strict amateurism must be applied to baseball as to all other sports, and that every effort must be made to uphold it. The method of suppressing the practice of violations will be the subject of discussion.

The Membership.

The membership of the association has grown in the last year from thirty-five to fifty-five institutions. Those who have notified the secretary of their intention to be represented today are the Case School, Colgate University, Dartmouth College, Denison College, Dickinson College, Franklin and Marshall College, George Washington University, Grove City College, Haverford College, Miami University, New York University, Oberlin College, Ohio University, Ohio Wesleyan University, Pratt Institute, Rochester University, Rutgers College, Seton Hall, Swarthmore College, Tufts University, University of Chicago, University of Colorado, University of Minnesota, University of Nebraska, University of North Carolina, University of Pennsylvania, University of Texas, University of Wisconsin, Washington University, Westminster University, West Point, University of West Virginia, Western University of Pennsylvania, Williams College, Bucknell University, Vermont, Amherst College, Albany College, Ohio State University, and the University of Virginia.

COMMON STARFISH
HAS MANY HABITS

Prof. H. S. Jennings, of Johns Hopkins University, who has been connected with the University of California in a number of experiments of several months' duration at the university's Marine Biological Laboratory at La Jolla, has discovered that no animal known is so low as the starfish. He has demonstrated that the animal is at the very bottom of animal species. The starfish is shown to have a complicated life, and many extraordinary ways of helping itself. On its back it bears about 2,000 small jaws or hands, arranged in rings and bands. These attack fiercely any creature that molests the starfish; as much as to say that he is brave toward God and a coward toward men. For as he faces God, and shrinks from man."

No animal so low as the starfish has before been known to form habits—to learn to do things in a certain definite way. To test whether the starfish could do this a number of specimens were trained for a long time to right themselves in certain definite ways. By this method it was found that the starfish very readily acquires what may be called temporary habits.—San Francisco Chronicle.

THE LIE.

There is no vice that doth so cover a man with shame as to be found false and perfidious. And therefore Montaigne saith prettily when he inquired the reason why the crab of the lie should be such a disgrace, and such an odious charge. Saith he: "If it be well weighed, to say that a man lieth is as much as to say that he is brave toward God and a coward toward men. For as he faces God, and shrinks from man."

Surely the wickedness of falsehood and breach of faith cannot possibly be so highly expressed as in that it shall be the last pest to call the judgments of God upon the generation of men, it being foretold that when Christ cometh "He shall not find faith upon the earth."—Sir Francis Bacon.

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CROSS-COUNTRY
ENTRIES CLOSE

Contestants Must Get Their
Blanks in by
Tonight.

Manager Fleming of the George Washington University track team announces that arrangements for the first annual cross-country run under the auspices of the University which will be held on New Year Day are practically completed, and, with the exception of a few minor details, he is ready to rest on his oars, confident of having gotten up one of the best cross-country runs ever held in Washington.

The entries to date exceed by far the expectations of the management, and the success of the affair seems assured. Manager Fleming also announces that entries will close tonight, and those which are not already in his hands or which are not mailed before midnight will be rejected.

A banner will be presented to the winning four-man team, and handsome prizes will be given to individuals finishing first, second, and third places. A. G. Spalding & Bros. have offered a handsome silver cup as first individual prize, and have placed this on exhibition in their window, 706 Fourteenth street.

This run is but a start to the number of runs which are assured to the public this season. Several years ago this sort of sport was a decided feature of the local curriculum of sporting events. It is to be hoped that this will tend to reawaken the interest in these events in the future.

GOTCH ANNOUNCES
WRESTLING PLANS

Will Show No Mercy to
Local Favorites.

Frank Gotch says he will cut out all crooked work in wrestling hereafter. "I will admit," said Gotch, "that the game has been run down in various parts of the country, especially in cities where they have had a local champion, who would never wrestle unless protected."

"Why, I have had fellows ask me to lay down to middle-weights just because they were the pets of the towns where they lived, and where the match was coming off. They argue that if I should beat their man in his own town it would kill off a good drawing card. When I was a green sucker I used to allow myself to be bunked in this manner. You just watch my smoke hereafter and see what I do to the men who wrestle me. I have not had any chance to train in months, but I am going to take a good course of work and go at these fellows and beat them so fast they won't ever know how it was done."

"It will in the future show no mercy in my living wrestler, and I am open to meet any man in the world under any conditions. Another thing I want to say to you is this:

"If every man make a handicap match to throw a man so many falls in a given time I will do my level best to fulfill my contract. I will put a crimp in that old game of beating the fellow under a fall of what I agreed to do. In other words, my matches are going to be rigidly on the square for I am going to find out just how much I can do in the way of winning."

"FIDDLING BOB" DENIES IT.
Another cherished illusion has been shattered. Senator Taylor, Tennessee, lovingly called throughout the Union "Fiddling Bob," doesn't play the fiddle. He has entered a formal denial. Pretty soon somebody will be saying that Congressman Richmond Pearson Hobson of Merrimack fame, never kissed a pretty young woman shipper. Representative Hughes of New York asked Senator Taylor about his musical accomplishments today.

"Haven't played a fiddle for a dozen years," said the Tennesseean. "That fiddling is all wrong. I haven't touched a bow for years."

"Maybe you play the violin, then?" ventured Hughes.

"Oh, I never even saw one of those darned things," retorted the Senator.—Boston Herald.

HER LITTLE GAME.
After tea she brought over his pipe and his slippers.

"John," she whispered tenderly, "do you know my conscience has been hurting me and I have formed a little conscience fund."

"Conscience fund?" asked the big husband in surprise.

"Yes, dear. You see I have been borrowing a few dollars out of your vest pockets every night for a week and here is the entire sum."

"Well! Well! You are an honest little woman!"

"And John?"

"Well, my dear?"

"Now—now that I have been so honest, would—would you mind giving me the 'conscience fund' to buy the pretty hat I saw in a window today?"—Exchange.

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"THERE IS NO WAR,"
SAYS PRES. O'BRIEN

A. A. Not Ready to Fight
for Chicago Fran-
chise.

CHICAGO, Dec. 28.—The annual meeting of the American Baseball Association will be held in Chicago today and Sunday. The proposed transfer of one of the clubs of the circuit to Chicago will be the principal business to come before the magnates, according to current gossip, here tonight.

The club owners are said to be primed for a thorough discussion of the invasion proposition, and it is predicted that the sessions will be lively ones. President O'Brien issued a call for the meeting to convene this afternoon, but it was unofficially given out that the real deliberations of the body will not take place until Sunday.

Informal gatherings and conferences are expected to be the order for today. President O'Brien was the first representative from out of town to arrive. He was asked for the latest "war news," but declared that "there is no war."

"There has been plenty of talk of invasion and war," he continued, "but I expect that the war cloud will pass over without any great damage being done. I have no doubt the subject of the proposed invasion will come up, and there will doubtless be some warm discussion. In the question of the franchise for Chicago, I can read the temper of the majority of the club owners in the league."

DIAMOND CHIPS

According to Canadian reports, Mike Kelley will draw a bigger salary from Toronto than Joe Kelley drew.

Lee Quillian, a good hitter and a poor fielder, who was with the White Sox last year, is likely to be with the Buffalo next season.

Frank Selee contemplates abandoning Pueblo and buying an interest in the Denver club of the Western League. Denver is to be congratulated.

Artie Hoffman will have competition in his bidding for the Des Moines franchise. Jessie Tannehill, of the Boston Americans, also has aspirations in this direction.

Wilhelm, of Birmingham, who was drafted or purchased by Brooklyn—there is little difference—spoken of as John Dobb's successor as manager of the Nashville team.

Not having sufficient laurels, Ty Cobb proposes to make the Augusta ball tossers look sick, and has decided to play indoor baseball in that city this winter. Charley Dexter, once of Louisville, is to be the leader of the Georgians in the South Atlantic League next season, but he lacks the pluck of Ty and refuses to take a chance on indoor ball. In the first game Cobb swatted the big sphere for an average of .500.

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